

**Current List of  
Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies  
and the**

**Criteria for Recognition  
by the U.S. Secretary of Education**



**U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education**

**September 1998**

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\* This brochure is also available at the following website:  
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# Accreditation in the United States

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The United States has no Federal ministry of education or other centralized authority exercising single national control over postsecondary educational institutions in this country. The States assume varying degrees of control over education, but, in general, institutions of higher education are permitted to operate with considerable independence and autonomy. As a consequence, American educational institutions can vary widely in the character and quality of their programs.

In order to insure a basic level of quality, the practice of accreditation arose in the United States as a means of conducting nongovernmental, peer evaluation of educational institutions and programs. Private educational associations of regional or national scope have adopted criteria reflecting the qualities of a sound educational program and have developed procedures for evaluating institutions or programs to determine whether or not they are operating at basic levels of quality.

## Functions of Accreditation

1. Verifying that an institution or program has met established standards;
2. Assisting prospective students in identifying acceptable institutions;
3. Assisting institutions in determining the acceptability of transfer credits;
4. Helping to identify institutions and programs for the investment of public and private funds;
5. Protecting an institution against harmful internal and external pressure;
6. Creating goals for self-improvement of weaker programs and stimulating a general raising of standards among educational institutions;
7. Involving the faculty and staff comprehensively in institutional evaluation and planning;
8. Establishing criteria for professional certification and licensure and for upgrading courses offering such preparation; and
9. Providing one of several considerations used as a basis for determining eligibility for Federal assistance.

## The Accrediting Procedure

1. Standards: The accrediting agency, in collaboration with educational institutions, establishes standards.
2. Self-study: The institution or program seeking accreditation prepares an in-depth self-evaluation study that measures its performance against the standards established by the accrediting agency.
3. On-site Evaluation: A team selected by the accrediting agency visits the institution or program to determine first-hand if the applicant meets the established standards.
4. Publication: Upon being satisfied that the applicant meets its standards, the accrediting agency grants accreditation or preaccreditation status and lists the institution or program in an official publication with other similarly accredited or preaccredited institutions or programs.
5. Reevaluation: The accrediting agency periodically reevaluates each institution or program that it lists to ascertain whether continuation of its accredited or preaccredited status is warranted.

## **Types of Accreditation**

There are two basic types of educational accreditation, one identified as "institutional" and one referred to as "specialized" or "programmatic."

Institutional accreditation normally applies to an entire institution, indicating that each of an institution's parts is contributing to the achievement of the institution's objectives, although not necessarily all at the same level of quality. The various commissions of the regional accrediting associations, for example, perform institutional accreditation, as do many national accrediting agencies.

Specialized or programmatic accreditation normally applies to programs, departments, or schools that are parts of an institution. The accredited unit may be as large as a college or school within a university or as small as a curriculum within a discipline. Most of the specialized or programmatic accrediting agencies review units within an institution of higher education that is accredited by one of the regional accrediting commissions. However, certain accrediting agencies also accredit professional schools and other specialized or vocational institutions of higher education that are free-standing in their operations. Thus, a "specialized" or "programmatic" accrediting agency may also function in the capacity of an "institutional" accrediting agency. In addition, a number of specialized accrediting agencies accredit educational programs within non-educational settings, such as hospitals.

Accreditation does not provide automatic acceptance by an institution of credit earned at another institution, nor does it give assurance of acceptance of graduates by employers. Acceptance of students or graduates is always the prerogative of the receiving institution or employer. For these reasons, besides ascertaining the accredited status of a school or program, students should take additional measures to determine, prior to enrollment, whether or not their educational goals will be met through attendance at a particular institution. These measures should include inquiries to institutions to which transfer might be desired or to prospective employers and, if possible, personal inspection of the institution at which enrollment is contemplated.

## **Nongovernmental Coordinating Agency**

For more than 50 years, there has been some type of nongovernmental coordinating agency for accreditation. This body, whatever its form, has existed primarily for the purpose of coordination and oversight of accrediting agencies and activities in the private sector. For example, the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation (COPA), which was established in 1974 and existed until December 1993, served as a nongovernmental organization whose purpose was to foster and facilitate the role of accrediting agencies in promoting and ensuring the quality and diversity of American postsecondary education. Through its Committee on Recognition, COPA recognized, coordinated, and periodically reviewed the work of its member accrediting agencies and the appropriateness of existing or proposed accrediting agencies and their activities, through its granting of recognition and performance of other related functions. After COPA voted to dissolve in December 1993, a new entity, the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation (CORPA) was established in January 1994 to continue the recognition of accrediting agencies previously carried out by COPA until such time as a new national organization for accreditation could be established. CORPA was dissolved in April 1997 after the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) was created. CHEA is currently the entity responsible for carrying out the recognition function in the private, nongovernmental sector.

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# **National Recognition of Accrediting Agencies By the U.S. Secretary of Education**

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The U.S. Secretary of Education is required by statute to publish a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies that the Secretary determines to be reliable authorities as to the quality of education or training provided by the institutions of higher education and the higher education programs they accredit.

Most institutions attain eligibility for Federal funds by holding accredited or preaccredited status with one of the accrediting agencies recognized by the Secretary, in addition to fulfilling other eligibility requirements. For example, accreditation by a nationally recognized institutional accrediting agency enables the institutions it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in the Federal student financial assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

The commissions of the institutional (regional and national) accrediting agencies that are recognized by the Secretary have no legal control over educational institutions or programs. They promulgate standards of quality or criteria of institutional excellence and approve or admit to membership those institutions that meet the standards or criteria.

## **The Accrediting Agency Evaluation Branch**

The Accrediting Agency Evaluation Branch has been established within the Department of Education to deal with accreditation matters. Located in the Office of Postsecondary Education, the Branch carries out the following major functions with respect to accreditation:

1. Conduct a continuous review of standards, policies, procedures, and issues in the area of the Department of Education's interests and responsibilities relative to accreditation;
2. Administer the process whereby accrediting agencies and State approval agencies secure initial and renewed recognition by the Secretary of Education;
3. Serve as the Department's liaison with accrediting agencies and State approval agencies;
4. Provide consultative services to institutions, associations, State agencies, other Federal agencies, and Congress regarding accreditation;
5. Interpretations and disseminate policy relative to accreditation issues in the case of all appropriate programs administered by the Department of Education;
6. Conduct and stimulate appropriate research; and
7. Provide support for the Secretary's National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.

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# The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity

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The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity was established under the Higher Education Amendments of 1992 (Public Law 102-325). It is composed of 15 persons appointed by the Secretary of Education from among individuals who are representatives of, or knowledgeable concerning, education and training beyond secondary education, including representatives of all sectors and types of institutions of higher education and representatives of the general public. Members of the committee serve three-year terms.

## Functions

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity advises the Secretary of Education on matters related to accreditation and to the process for determining the eligibility and certification of institutions and the provisions of financial aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended. Specifically, the Committee--

1. Advises the Secretary with respect to establishment and enforcement of the standards of accrediting agencies or associations under Subpart 2 of Part H, Title IV, of the HEA;
2. Advises the Secretary with respect to the recognition of a specific accrediting agency or association or a specific State approval agency;
3. Advises the Secretary with respect to the preparation and publication of the list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and associations;
4. Develops and recommends to the Secretary standards and criteria for specific categories of vocational training institutions and institutions of higher education for which there are no recognized accrediting agencies, associations, or State agencies, in order to establish the eligibility of such institutions on an interim basis for participation in federally funded programs;
5. Advises the Secretary with respect to the eligibility and certification process for institutions of higher education under Title IV of the HEA, together with recommendations for improvement in such process;
6. Advises the Secretary with respect to the functions of the Secretary under Subpart 1 of Part H, relating to State institutional integrity standards;
7. Advises the Secretary with respect to the relationship between--
  - (A) Accreditation of institutions of higher education and the certification and eligibility of such institutions, and
  - (B) State licensing responsibilities with respect to such institutions; and
8. Carries out such other advisory functions relating to accreditation and institutional eligibility as the Secretary may prescribe.

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# Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies

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The following regional and national accrediting agencies are recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as reliable authorities concerning the quality of education or training offered by the institutions of higher education or higher education programs they accredit. The dates specified for each entry are the date of initial listing as a nationally recognized agency, the date of the Secretary's most recent grant of renewed recognition based on the last full review of the agency by the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, and the date of the agency's next scheduled review for renewal of recognition. Unless otherwise noted in a Title IV note after the agency's name, accreditation by an agency listed below may be used by an institution accredited by the agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

## REGIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITING AGENCIES

### **Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education**

1952/1996/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Republic of Panama and a limited number of freestanding American-style institutions abroad that are chartered or licensed by an appropriate agency within the Middle States region.

Jean Avnet Morse, Executive Director  
3624 Market Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104  
Tel. (215) 662-5606, Fax (215) 662-5950  
e-mail address: info@msache.org

### **Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Secondary Schools**

1988/1996/1999

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of public vocational/technical schools offering non-degree, postsecondary education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

**Title IV Note:** *Only those public vocational/technical schools accredited by this agency that offer non-degree, postsecondary education may use that accreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Joseph J. DeLucia, Executive Director  
3624 Market Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104  
Tel. (215) 662-5606, Fax (215) 662-5905  
e-mail address: msacss@aol.com

### **New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education**

1952/1997/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of institutions of higher education in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont that award bachelor's, master's, and/or doctoral degrees as well as associate degree-granting institutions in those states that include degrees in liberal arts or general studies among their offerings. This recognition extends to the Board of Trustees of the Association jointly with the Commission for decisions involving preaccreditation, initial accreditation, and adverse actions.

Charles Cook, Director  
209 Burlington Road  
Bedford, Massachusetts 01730-1433  
Tel. (781) 271-0022, Fax (781) 271-0950

e-mail address: ccook@neasc.org

**New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Technical and Career Institutions**  
1952/1997/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidacy") of secondary institutions with vocational-technical programs at the 13th and 14th level, postsecondary institutions, and institutions of higher education that provide primarily vocational-technical education at the certificate, associate, and baccalaureate degree levels in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. This recognition extends to the Board of Trustees of the Association jointly with the Commission for decisions involving preaccreditation, initial accreditation, and adverse actions.

**Title IV Note:** *Any public vocational/technical schools accredited by this agency that offer non-degree, postsecondary education and that wish to use that accreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs must be accredited by the agency as offering education through the 13th and/or 14th grade level.*

Richard Mandeville, Director  
209 Burlington Road  
Bedford, Massachusetts 01730-1433  
Tel. (781) 271-0022, Fax (781) 271-0950  
e-mail address: mandeville@neasc.org

**North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education**  
1952/1997/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of degree-granting institutions of higher education in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the Navajo Nation.

Steven D. Crow, Executive Director  
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Tel. (312) 263-0456, (800) 621-7440, Fax (312) 263-7462  
e-mail address: info@ncacihe.org

**North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Schools**  
1974/1998/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of schools offering non-degree, postsecondary education in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the Navajo Nation.

**Title IV Note:** *Only those public vocational/technical schools accredited by this agency that offer non-degree, postsecondary education may use that accreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Kenneth F. Gose, Executive Director  
Arizona State University  
P.O. Box 873011  
Tempe, Arizona 85287-3011  
Tel. (800) 525-9517, Fax (602) 965-9423  
e-mail address: kgose@nca.asu.edu  
web site: www.nca.asu.edu/

**Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Colleges**

1952/1997/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of institutions of higher education in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Sandra E. Elman, Executive Director  
11130 NE 33rd Place, Suite 120  
Bellevue, Washington 98004  
Tel. (425) 827-2005, Fax (425) 827-3395  
e-mail address: selman@u.washington.edu

**Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges**

1952/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of degree-granting institutions of higher education in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

James T. Rogers, Executive Director  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097  
Tel. (404) 679-4501 Ext. 512, (800) 248-7701, Fax (404) 679-4558  
e-mail address: jrogers@sacscoc.org

**Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges**

1952/1997/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of community and junior colleges in California, Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

David B. Wolf, Executive Director  
3402 Mendocino Avenue  
Santa Rosa, California 95403  
Tel. (707) 569-9177, Fax (707) 569-9179  
e-mail address: accjc@aol.com

**Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Schools**

1974/1995/1999

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of adult and postsecondary schools that offer programs below the degree level in California, Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

**Title IV Note:** *Only adult and postsecondary schools accredited by this agency that offer postsecondary programs below the degree level may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Donald G. Haught, Executive Director  
533 Airport Boulevard, Suite 200  
Burlingame, California 94010  
Tel. (650) 696-1060, Fax (650) 375-7790  
e-mail address: wasc@ed.co.sanmateo.ca.us

**Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities**

1952/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of senior colleges and universities in California, Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Ralph Wolff, Executive Director  
c/o Mills College, Box 9990  
Oakland, California 94613-0990  
Tel. (510) 632-5000, Fax (510) 632-8361  
e-mail address: r.wolff@wasc.mills.edu

# NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL AND SPECIALIZED ACCREDITING BODIES

## ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE

### **Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine**

1988/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of first-professional master's degree and professional master's level certificate and diploma programs in acupuncture and Oriental medicine.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of acupuncture or Oriental medicine may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Dort S. Bigg, Executive Director

1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1270

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Tel. (301) 608-9680, Fax (301) 608-9576

e-mail address: nacsaom@compuserve.com

## ALLIED HEALTH

### **Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools**

1982/1995/1998

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of private, postsecondary allied health education institutions, private medical assistant programs, public and private medical laboratory technician programs, and allied health programs leading to the Associate of Applied Science and the Associate of Occupational Science degree.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding allied health education schools may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Carol Moneymaker, Executive Director

803 West Broad Street, Suite 730

Falls Church, Virginia 22046

Tel. (703) 533-2082, Fax (703) 533-2095

e-mail address: abhes@erols.com

## ART AND DESIGN

### **National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Commission on Accreditation**

1966/1997/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of institutions and units within institutions offering degree-granting and non-degree-granting programs in art, design, or art/design-related disciplines.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of art and design may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Samuel Hope, Executive Director

11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21

Reston, Virginia 20190

Tel. (703) 437-0700, Fax (703) 437-6312

e-mail address: kpmnasm@aol.com

## BIBLE COLLEGE EDUCATION

### **Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges, Commission on Accreditation**

1952/1996/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of Bible colleges and institutes offering undergraduate programs.

Ralph E. Enlow, Jr., Executive Director  
P. O. Box 780339  
Orlando, Florida 32878-0339  
Tel. (407) 207-0808, Fax (407) 207-0840  
e-mail address: [rebell@aabc.org](mailto:rebell@aabc.org)

## BUSINESS

### **Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools**

1956/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of private postsecondary institutions offering business and business-related programs and the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Recognized Candidate") of junior and senior colleges of business (including senior colleges with master's degree programs), as well as independent, freestanding institutions offering only graduate business and business-related programs at the master's degree level.

**Title IV Note:** *The only institutions preaccredited by this agency that may use that preaccreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs are private, non-profit junior and senior colleges of business and private, non-profit freestanding institutions offering only graduate business and business-related programs at the master's degree level.*

Stephen D. Parker, Executive Director  
750 First Street, NE, Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4242  
Tel. (202) 336-6780, Fax (202) 842-2593  
e-mail address: [sparker1.@acics.org](mailto:sparker1.@acics.org)

## CHIROPRACTIC

### **The Council on Chiropractic Education, Commission on Accreditation**

1974/1997/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of Doctor of Chiropractic programs and single-purpose institutions offering the Doctor of Chiropractic program.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of chiropractic may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Paul D. Walker, Executive Vice President  
7975 North Hayden Road, Suite A-210  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85258  
Tel. (602) 443-8877, Fax (602) 483-7333  
e-mail address: [cceoffice@aol.com](mailto:cceoffice@aol.com)

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### **Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, Accrediting Commission**

1991/1996/1999

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of postsecondary institutions that offer certificates, diplomas, and associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees.

Russell Guy Fitzgerald, Jr., Executive Director

P.O. Box 328

Forest, Virginia 24551

Tel. (804) 525-9539, Fax (804) 525-9538

## CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

**National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences** (sponsored by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists)

1974/1996/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of programs in Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology, Clinical Laboratory Technician/Medical Laboratory Technician-Associate Degree, Clinical Laboratory Technician/Medical Laboratory Technician-Certificate, Histologic Technician/ Histotechnologist, and Pathologists' Assistant.

**Title IV Note:** *Only hospital-based clinical laboratory science programs and freestanding laboratory science institutions may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Olive M. Kimball, Executive Director

8410 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 670

Chicago, Illinois 60631-3415

Tel. (312) 714-8880, Fax (312) 714-8886

e-mail address: naaccls@mcs.net

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### **Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training**

1978/1997/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of institutions of higher education that offer non-collegiate continuing education programs.

**Title IV Note:** *Only those institutions classified by this agency as "vocational" may use accreditation by the agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Roger J. Williams, Executive Director

1200 Nineteenth Street, NW, Suite 200

Washington, DC 20036

Tel. (202) 955-1113, Fax (202) 955-1118

## COSMETOLOGY

### **National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences**

1970/1996/1999

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of postsecondary schools and departments of cosmetology arts and sciences.

Mark Gross, Chief Executive Officer

901 North Stuart Street, Suite 900

Arlington, Virginia 22203

Tel. (703) 527-7600, Fax (703) 527-8811

e-mail address: mkgross@erols.com Web address: [www.naccas.org](http://www.naccas.org)

## DANCE

**National Association of Schools of Dance, Commission on Accreditation**

1983/1997/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of institutions and units within institutions offering degree-granting and non-degree-granting programs in dance and dance-related disciplines.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of dance may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Samuel Hope, Executive Director  
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21  
Reston, Virginia 20190  
Tel. (703) 437-0700, Fax (703) 437-6312  
e-mail address: kpmnasm@aol.com

**DENTAL AND DENTAL AUXILIARY PROGRAMS****American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation**

1952/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of predoctoral dental education programs (programs leading to the DDS or DMD degree); dental auxiliary education programs (dental assisting, dental hygiene and dental laboratory technology); and advanced dental educational programs (general practices residency, advanced general dentistry, and the specialties of dental public health, endodontics, oral pathology, orthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, pedodontics, periodontics, and prosthodontics).

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

James J. Koelbl  
Associate Executive Director, Education  
American Dental Association  
211 East Chicago Avenue, 18th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Tel. (312) 440-2500, (800) 621-8099, Fax (312) 440-2915  
Web address: [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

**DIETETICS****The American Dietetic Association, Commission on Accreditation/Approval for Dietetics Education**

1974/1996/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of coordinated programs in dietetics at both the undergraduate and graduate level, postbaccalaureate dietetic internships, and dietetic technician programs at the associate degree level.

**Title IV Note:** *Only postbaccalaureate dietetic internship programs may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Beverly E. Mitchell, Administrator  
216 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 800  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995  
Tel. (312) 899-4872, Fax (312) 899-4817  
e-mail address: [bmitche@eatright.org](mailto:bmitche@eatright.org)

**DISTANCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING****Distance Education and Training Council, Accrediting Commission**

1959/1996/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of private and non-private distance education institutions offering non-degree and associate, baccalaureate, and master's degree programs primarily through the distance learning method.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Michael P. Lambert, Executive Secretary  
1601 18th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
Tel. (202) 234-5100, Fax (202) 332-1386  
e-mail address: detc@detc.org.  
Web address: <http://www.detc.org>

## ENGINEERING

### **Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc.**

1952/1997/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of basic (baccalaureate) and advanced (master's) level programs in engineering, associate and baccalaureate degree programs in engineering technology, and engineering-related programs at the baccalaureate and advanced degree level.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

George D. Peterson, Executive Director  
111 Market Place, Suite 1050  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Tel. (410) 347-7700, Fax (410) 625-2238  
e-mail address: gpeterson@abet.ba.md.us

## ENVIRONMENT

### **National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council**

1995/1996/1998

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Preaccreditation") of baccalaureate programs in environmental health science and protection.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Gary Silverman  
Environmental Health  
College of Health and Human Services  
102 Health Center  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0280  
Tel. (419) 372-7774, Fax (419) 372-2897  
e-mail address: silverman@bgnet.bgsu.edu

## FUNERAL SERVICE EDUCATION

### **American Board of Funeral Service Education, Committee on Accreditation**

1972/1997/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of institutions and programs awarding diplomas, associate degrees and bachelor's degrees in funeral service or mortuary science.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of funeral service or mortuary science may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Gordon S. Bigelow, Executive Director  
13 Gurnet Road, #316  
PO Box 1305  
Brunswick, Maine 04011  
Tel. (207) 798-5801, Fax (207) 798-5988  
e-mail address: abfse@clinic.net

#### HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

##### **Accrediting Commission on Education for Health Services Administration**

1970/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of graduate programs in health services administration.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Andrea Barone-Wodjouatt, Interim President  
1110 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 220  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel. (202) 822-8561, Fax (202) 822-8555  
e-mail address: andreabaro@aol.com

#### JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

##### **Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications**

1952/1996/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of units within institutions offering professional undergraduate and graduate (master's) degree programs in journalism and mass communications.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Susanne Shaw, Executive Director  
University of Kansas School of Journalism  
Stauffer-Flint Hall  
Lawrence, Kansas 66045  
Tel. (913) 864-3986, Fax (913) 864-5225  
e-mail address: sshaw@ukans.edu

## LAW

### **American Bar Association, Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar** 1952/1997/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of law schools.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding law schools may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

James P. White  
Consultant on Legal Education, ABA  
Indiana University  
550 West North Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202  
Tel. (317) 264-8340, Fax (317) 264-8355  
e-mail address: jwhite@iupui.edu

## LIBERAL EDUCATION

### **American Academy for Liberal Education**

1995/1997/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of institutions of higher education and programs within institutions of higher education that offer liberal arts degrees at the baccalaureate level or a documented equivalency.

**Title IV Note:** *Only institutions of higher education accredited by this agency may use that accreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Jeffrey D. Wallin, President  
1015 18th Street, NW, Suite 204  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel (202) 452-8611, Fax (202) 452-8620  
e-mail address: 7212.3656@compuserve.com

## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

### **American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education**

1978/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of clinical training programs in marriage and family therapy at the master's, doctoral, and postgraduate levels.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Donald B. Kaveny, Executive Director  
1133 15th Street, NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20005-2710  
Tel. (202) 467-5111, Fax (202) 232-2329  
e-mail address: dkaveny@aamft.org  
web site: www.aamft.org

## MEDICINE

### **Liaison Committee on Medical Education**

1952/1997/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of medical education programs leading to the M.D. degree.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

The LCME is administered in odd-numbered years, beginning each July 1, by:

Harry S. Jonas, Secretary

Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association

515 North State Street

Chicago, Illinois 60610

Tel. (312) 464-4657, Fax (312) 464-5830

e-mail address: harry\_jonas@ama-assn.org

The LCME is administered in even-numbered years, beginning each July 1, by:

Donald G. Kassebaum, Secretary

Association of American Medical Colleges

2450 N Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20037

Tel. (202) 828-0596, Fax (202) 828-1125

e-mail address: dgkassebaum@aamc.org

### **MONTESSORI EDUCATION**

#### **Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education, Commission on Accreditation**

1995/1997/1999

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of Montessori teacher education institutions and programs evaluated by the following review committees: the American Montessori Society Review Committee and the Independent Review Committee.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding Montessori teacher education schools may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. Further, that accreditation must have been granted in conjunction with the accrediting activities of the review committees listed above.*

Gretchen Warner, Executive Director

Montessori Accreditation Council

for Teacher Education

University of Wisconsin - Parkside, Tallent Hall

900 Wood Road, Box 2000

Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141-2000

Tel. (414) 595-3335, (888) 446-2283, Fax (414) 595-3332

e-mail address warner@uwp.edu

### **MUSIC**

**National Association of Schools of Music, Commission on Accreditation,  
Commission on Non-Degree-Granting Accreditation,  
Commission on Community/Junior College Accreditation**  
1952/1997/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of institutions and units within institutions offering degree- granting and non-degree granting programs in music and music-related disciplines, including community/junior colleges and independent degree-granting and non-degree-granting institutions.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of music may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Samuel Hope, Executive Director  
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21  
Reston, Virginia 20190  
Tel. (703) 437-0700, Fax (703) 437-6312  
e-mail address: kpmnasm@aol.com

**NATUROPATHY AND NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE**

**Council on Naturopathic Medical Education**

1987/1995/1999

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of institutions and graduate programs in Naturopathy that lead to the degree of Doctor of Naturopathy (N.D.) or Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (N.M.D.).

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of naturopathic medicine or naturopathy may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Robert Lofft, Executive Director  
P. O. Box 11426  
Eugene, Oregon 97440-3626  
Tel. (541) 484-6028  
e-mail address: crest@clipper.net

**NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY**

**Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology**

1974/1995/1999

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of higher education programs for the nuclear medicine technologist. **Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Elaine Cuklanz, Executive Director  
#1 2nd Avenue East, Suite C  
Polson, Montana 59860-2320  
Tel. (406) 883-0003, Fax (406) 883-0022  
e-mail address: jrcnmt@ptiney.net

## NURSE ANESTHESIA

### **American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs**

1955/1996/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of institutions and programs of nurse anesthesia at the certificate, master's, or doctoral degree levels.

**Title IV Note:** *Only hospital-based nurse anesthesia programs and freestanding nurse anesthesia institutions may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs*

Betty J. Horton, Director of Accreditation  
222 South Prospect, Suite 304  
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068-4010  
Tel. (847) 692-7050, Fax (847) 693-7137  
e-mail address: 75777.1576@compuserve.com

## NURSE-MIDWIFERY

### **American College of Nurse-Midwives, Division of Accreditation**

1982/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Preaccreditation") of basic certificate and graduate nurse-midwifery education programs for registered nurses, as well as the accreditation and preaccreditation of pre-certification nurse-midwifery education programs.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Helen Varney Burst  
Chair, Division of Accreditation  
Nurse-Midwifery Program  
818 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel. (202) 728-9877, Fax (202) 728-9897  
e-mail address: lslatter@acnm.org

## NURSE PRACTITIONERS

### **National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Reproductive Health, Council on Accreditation**

1996/1998/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of women's health nurse practitioner programs.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Ms. Susan Wysocki, Executive Director  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners  
in Reproductive Health  
503 Capitol Court, NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel. (202) 543-9693, Fax (202) 543-9858  
e-mail address: nanprh@aol.com

## NURSING

### **National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission**

1952/1990/1998

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of programs in practical nursing, and diploma, associate, baccalaureate and higher degree nurse education programs.

**Title IV Note:** *Only diploma programs and practical nursing programs not located in a regionally accredited college or university may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Geraldene Felton, Executive Director  
350 Hudson Street  
New York, New York 10014  
Tel. (800) 669-1656, Fax (212) 989-3710  
e-mail address: gfelton@nlcn.org

## OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

### **Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology**

1967/1995/1999

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of private, postsecondary, non-degree-granting institutions and degree-granting institutions, including those granting associate and baccalaureate degrees, that are predominantly organized to educate students for occupational, trade and technical careers.

Thomas D. Fischetti, Executive Director  
2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 302  
Arlington, VA 22201  
Tel. (703) 247-4212, Fax (703) 247-4533  
e-mail address: tfischetti@accsct.org

### **Council on Occupational Education**

1969/1997/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of non-degree granting postsecondary occupational/vocational institutions and those postsecondary occupational/vocational education institutions that grant the applied associate degree in specific vocational/ occupational fields.

Harry L. Bowman, Executive Director  
41 Perimeter Center East, NE, Suite 640  
Atlanta, Georgia 30346  
Tel. (770) 396-3898, (800) 917-2081, Fax (770) 396-3790  
e-mail address: bowman@council.org

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

### **American Occupational Therapy Association, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education** 1952/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of entry-level professional occupational therapy educational programs awarding baccalaureate degrees, post-baccalaureate certificates, professional master's degrees, and combined baccalaureate/ master's degrees, and also for the accreditation of occupational therapy assistant programs leading to an associate degree or certificate.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Doris Gordon, Director, Accreditation Department  
4720 Montgomery Lane  
P.O. Box 31220  
Bethesda, Maryland 20824-1220  
Tel. (301) 652-2682, Fax (301) 652-7711  
e-mail address: dorisg@aota.org

## OPTICIANRY

### **Commission on Opticianry Accreditation** 1985/1998/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of two-year programs for the ophthalmic dispenser and one-year programs for the ophthalmic laboratory technician.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Linda McEnery, Director of Accreditation  
Commission on Opticianry Accreditation  
10341 Democracy Lane  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-2521  
Tel. (703) 352-8028 , Fax (703)-691-3929

## OPTOMETRY

### **American Optometric Association, Council on Optometric Education** 1952/1997/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Reasonable Assurance" and "Preliminary Approval" {for professional degree programs} and "Candidacy Pending" {for optometric residency programs in Veterans' Administration facilities}) of professional optometric degree programs, optometric residency programs, and optometric technician (associate degree) programs.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Joyce L. Urbeck, Administrative Director  
243 North Lindbergh Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri 63141  
Tel. (314) 991-4100, Fax (314) 991-4101  
e-mail address: urbeckcoe@aol.com

## ORIENTAL MEDICINE

(See listing under ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE)

## OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

### **American Osteopathic Association, Bureau of Professional Education**

1952/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Provisional Accreditation") of freestanding institutions of osteopathic medicine and programs leading to the degree of Doctor of Osteopathy or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of osteopathic medicine may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Konrad C. Retz, Secretary  
Department of Education, AOA  
142 East Ontario Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Tel. (312) 202-8000 fax (312) 202-8200  
e-mail address: retzkc@am-osteop-org.com

## PASTORAL EDUCATION

### **Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc., Accreditation Commission**

1969/1998/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidacy for Accredited Membership") of clinical pastoral education (CPE) centers and CPE and supervisory CPE programs.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Russell H. Davis, Executive Director  
1549 Claremont Road, Suite 103  
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4611  
Tel. (404) 320-1472 fax (404) 320-0849  
e-mail address: 71210.2243@compuserve.com

## PHARMACY

### **American Council on Pharmaceutical Education**

1952/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Precandidate" and "Candidate") of professional degree programs in pharmacy leading to the degrees of Baccalaureate in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Daniel A. Nona, Executive Director  
311 West Superior  
Chicago, Illinois 60610  
Tel. (312) 664-3575, Fax (312) 664-4652  
e-mail address: acpe@compuserve.com

## PHYSICAL THERAPY

### **American Physical Therapy Association, Commission on Accreditation in Education**

1977/1996/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation" status) of programs for the preparation of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Virginia Nieland, Director  
Department of Accreditation  
Trans Potomac Plaza  
1111 North Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
Tel. (703) 706-3245, Fax (703) 684-7343  
e-mail address: vnieland@apta.org

## PODIATRY

### **American Podiatric Medical Association, Council on Podiatric Medical Education**

1952/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate Status") of freestanding colleges of podiatric medicine and programs of podiatric medicine, including first professional programs leading to the degree of Doctor of Podiatric Medicine.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of podiatric medicine may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Alan R. Tinkleman, Director  
9312 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-2752  
Tel. (301) 571-9200, Fax (301) 581-9299  
e-mail address: artinkleman@apma.org

## PSYCHOLOGY

### **American Psychological Association, Committee on Accreditation**

1970/1997/1999

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of doctoral programs in clinical, counseling, school and combined professional-scientific psychology, predoctoral internship programs in professional psychology, and postdoctoral residency programs in professional psychology.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Susan Zlotlow, Director  
Office of Program Consultation and  
Accreditation  
750 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002-4242  
Tel. (202) 336-5979, Fax (202) 336-5978  
e-mail address: pdn.apa@email.apa.org

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### **Council on Education for Public Health**

1974/1997/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Preaccreditation") of graduate schools of public health, graduate programs in community health education outside schools of public health, and graduate programs in community health/preventive medicine outside schools of public health.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Patricia Evans, Executive Director  
1015 15th Street, NW, Suite 403  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel. (202) 789-1050, Fax (202) 789-1895  
e-mail address: evan0015@cdc.gov

## RABBINICAL AND TALMUDIC EDUCATION

### **Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools, Accreditation Commission**

1974/1997/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Correspondent" and "Candidate") of advanced rabbinical and Talmudic schools.

Bernard Fryshman, Executive Vice-President  
175 Fifth Avenue, Room 711  
New York, New York 10010  
Tel. (212) 477-0950, Fax (212) 533-5335

## RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

### **Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology**

1957/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of educational programs for radiographers and radiation therapists.

**Title IV Note:** *Only hospital-based radiologic technology programs and freestanding radiologic technology institutions may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Marilyn Fay, Executive Director  
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 900  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2901  
Tel. (312) 704-5300, Fax (312) 704-5304  
e-mail address: jrcert@mail.idt.net

## SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

### **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Council on Academic Accreditation**

1967/1997/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidacy Status") of Master's and doctoral-level degree programs in speech-language pathology and audiology.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Sharon Goldsmith, Director  
Academic Affairs and Credentialing Division  
10801 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852  
Tel. (301) 897-5700, Fax (301) 571-0457  
e-mail address: sgoldsmith@asha.org

## TEACHER EDUCATION

### **National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education**

1952/1995/2000

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of professional education units providing baccalaureate and graduate degree programs for the preparation of teachers and other professional personnel for elementary and secondary schools.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Arthur Wise, President  
2010 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036-1023  
Tel. (202) 466-7496, Fax (202) 296-6620  
e-mail address: ncate@ncate.org

## THEATER

### **National Association of Schools of Theatre, Commission on Accreditation**

1982/1997/2002

Scope of recognition: the accreditation of institutions and units within institutions offering degree-granting and non-degree-granting programs in theatre and theatre-related disciplines.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of theatre may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Samuel Hope, Executive Director  
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21  
Reston, Virginia 20190  
Tel. (703) 437-0700, Fax (703) 437-6312  
e-mail address: kpmnasm@aol.com

## THEOLOGY

### **Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, Commission on Accrediting** 1952/1995/1999

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accredited Status") of freestanding institutions, as well as programs affiliated with larger institutions, that offer graduate professional education for ministry and graduate study of theology.

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding institutions, colleges, or seminaries of theology may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

James L. Waits, Executive Director  
10 Summit Park Drive  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15275-1103  
Tel. (412) 788-6505, Fax (412) 788-6510  
e-mail address: ats@ats.edu

## VETERINARY MEDICINE

### **American Veterinary Medical Association, Council on Education** 1952/1997/2001

Scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Reasonable Assurance") of programs leading to professional degrees (D.V.M. or D.M.V.) in veterinary medicine.

**Title IV Note:** *Accreditation by this agency does not enable the entities it accredits to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

Donald G. Simmons, Director  
Education and Research Division  
1931 North Meacham Road, Suite 100  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173  
Tel. (847) 925-8070, (800) 248-2862, Fax (847) 925-1329  
e-mail address: dsimmons@avma.org

## OTHER

### **New York State Board of Regents** 1952/1995/1998

Scope of recognition: the accreditation (registration) of collegiate degree-granting programs or curricula offered by institutions of higher education located in the state of New York and of credit-bearing certificate and diploma programs offered by degree-granting institutions of higher education located in the state of New York.

Richard Mills, Commissioner of Education  
State Education Department  
The University of the State of New York  
Albany, New York 12224  
Tel. (518) 474-5844 Fax (518) 473-4909  
Web address: <http://www.nysed.gov>

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# Accrediting Agencies Recognized for their Preaccreditation Categories

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Under the terms of the Higher Education Act and other Federal legislation providing funding assistance to postsecondary education, an institution or program is eligible to apply for participation in certain Federal programs if, in addition to meeting other statutory requirements, it is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or if it is an institution or program with respect to which the U.S. Secretary of Education has determined that there is satisfactory assurance the institution or program will meet the accreditation standards of such an agency or association within a reasonable time. An institution or program may establish satisfactory assurance of accreditation by acquiring preaccreditation status with a nationally recognized agency that has been recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education for the award of such status. According to the Criteria for Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies, if an accrediting agency has developed a preaccreditation status, it must demonstrate that it applies criteria and follows procedures that are appropriately related to those used to award accreditation status.

The following is a list of accrediting agencies recognized for their preaccreditation categories and the categories that are recognized:

## **Regional Institutional Accrediting Agencies**

### **MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS--**

Commission on Higher Education: Candidate for Accreditation  
Commission on Secondary Schools: Candidate for Accreditation

### **NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES:**

Commission on Institutions of Higher Education: Candidate for Accreditation  
Commission on Technical and Career Institutions: Candidate for Accreditation

### **NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS--**

Commission on Institutions of Higher Education: Candidate for Accreditation  
Commission on Schools: Candidate for Accreditation

### **NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES--**

Commission on Colleges: Candidate for Accreditation

### **SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS--**

Commission on Colleges: Candidate for Accreditation

### **WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES--**

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges: Candidate for Accreditation  
Accrediting Commission for Schools: Candidate for Accreditation  
Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities: Candidate for Accreditation

## **National Institutional and Specialized Accrediting Bodies**

### **ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION OF BIBLE COLLEGES--**

Commission on Accrediting: Candidate for Accreditation

ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS: Recognized Candidate for Junior College Accreditation, Recognized Candidate for Senior College Accreditation (applies to institutions already holding accredited status)

AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR LIBERAL EDUCATION: Candidate for Accreditation

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES  
Division of Accreditation: Preaccreditation

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION: Candidate, Precandidate

AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION--  
Council on Optometric Education: Reasonable Assurance and Preliminary Approval (for professional degree programs);  
Candidacy Pending (for optometric residency programs in Veterans' Administration facilities)

AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION--  
Bureau of Professional Education: Provisional Accreditation

AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION--  
Commission on Accreditation in Education: Candidate for Accreditation

AMERICAN PODIATRIC ASSOCIATION--  
Council on Podiatric Medical Education: Candidate Status

AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION--  
Council on Academic Accreditation: Candidate Status

AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION--  
Council on Education: Reasonable Assurance

ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION, INC.--  
Accreditation Committee: Candidacy for Accredited Membership

ASSOCIATION OF ADVANCED RABBINICAL AND TALMUDIC SCHOOLS--  
Accreditation Commission: Correspondent, Candidate

ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA--  
Commission on Accrediting: Candidate for Accredited Status

COUNCIL ON EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH: Preaccreditation

COUNCIL ON NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL EDUCATION: Candidate for Accreditation

COUNCIL ON OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION: Candidate for Accreditation

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCE AND PROTECTION ACCREDITATION COUNCIL:  
Preaccreditation

TRANSNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS: Candidate for Accreditation

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# Accrediting Agencies Recognized for Title IV Purposes

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The following is a list of accrediting agencies whose accreditation enables the institutions they accredit to establish eligibility to participate in the Federal student financial assistance programs administered by the Department under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended.

ACCREDITATION COMMISSION FOR ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE (FORMERLY NACAOM)

**Title IV Note:** Only freestanding schools or colleges of acupuncture or Oriental medicine may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

\*ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION OF BIBLE COLLEGES, COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITING BUREAU OF HEALTH EDUCATION SCHOOLS

**Title IV Note:** Only freestanding allied health education schools may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

ACCREDITING COMMISSION OF CAREER SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF TECHNOLOGY

ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**Title IV Note:** Only those institutions classified by this agency as "vocational" may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

\*ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

**Title IV Note:** The only institutions preaccredited by this agency that may use that preaccreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs are private, non-profit junior and senior colleges of business and private, non-profit freestanding institutions offering only graduate business and business-related programs at the master's degree level.

\*AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR LIBERAL EDUCATION

**Title IV Note:** Only institutions of higher education accredited by this agency may use that accreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS, COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION OF NURSE ANESTHESIA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

**Title IV Note:** Only hospital-based nurse anesthesia programs and freestanding nurse anesthesia institutions may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, COUNCIL OF THE SECTION OF LEGAL EDUCATION AND ADMISSION TO THE BAR

**Title IV Note:** Only freestanding law schools may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

AMERICAN BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE EDUCATION, COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION

**Title IV Note:** Only freestanding schools or colleges of funeral service or mortuary science may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.

AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION, COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION APPROVAL FOR DIETETICS EDUCATION

**Title IV Note:** *Only postbaccalaureate dietetic internship programs may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

\*AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION, BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of osteopathic medicine may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

\*AMERICAN PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, COUNCIL ON PODIATRIC MEDICAL EDUCATION

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of podiatric medicine may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

\*ASSOCIATION OF ADVANCED RABBINICAL AND TALMUDIC SCHOOLS, ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

\*ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITING

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding institutions, colleges, or seminaries of theology may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

THE COUNCIL ON CHIROPRACTIC EDUCATION, COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of chiropractic may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

\*COUNCIL ON OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION, COMMISSION (FORMERLY SACS-COEI)

\*COUNCIL ON NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL EDUCATION

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of naturopathic medicine or naturopathy may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

JOINT REVIEW COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

**Title IV Note:** *Only hospital-based radiologic technology programs and freestanding radiologic technology institutions may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

\*MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS, COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

\*MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS, COMMISSION ON SECONDARY SCHOOLS

**Title IV Note:** *Only those public vocational/technical schools accredited by this agency that offer non-degree, postsecondary education may use that accreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

MONTESSORI ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR TEACHER EDUCATION, COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding Montessori teacher education schools may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. Further, that accreditation must have been granted in conjunction with the accrediting activities of one of the following review committees: the American Montessori Society Review Committee and the Independent Review Committee*

NATIONAL ACCREDITING AGENCY FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

**Title IV Note:** *Only hospital-based clinical laboratory science programs and freestanding laboratory science institutions may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

NATIONAL ACCREDITING COMMISSION OF COSMETOLOGY ARTS & SCIENCES

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF ART AND DESIGN, COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of art and design may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF DANCE, COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of dance may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF MUSIC, COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION AND THE COMMISSION ON NON-DEGREE-GRANTING ACCREDITATION, COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of music may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF THEATRE, COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION

**Title IV Note:** *Only freestanding schools or colleges of theatre may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR NURSING ACCREDITING COMMISSION

**Title IV Note:** *Only diploma programs and practical nursing programs not located in a regionally accredited college or university may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

\*NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, COMMISSION ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

\*NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, COMMISSION ON TECHNICAL AND CAREER INSTITUTIONS

**Title IV Note:** *Any public vocational/technical schools accredited by this agency that offer non-degree, postsecondary education and that wish to use that accreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs must be accredited by the agency as offering education through the 13th and/or 14th grade level.*

NEW YORK BOARD OF REGENTS

\*NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS, COMMISSION ON INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

\*NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS, COMMISSION ON SCHOOLS

**Title IV Note:** *Only those public vocational/technical schools accredited by this agency that offer non-degree, postsecondary education may use that accreditation to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

\*NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

\*SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS, COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

\*TRANSNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS, ACCREDITING COMMISSION

\*WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

\*WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS

**Title IV Note:** *Only adult and postsecondary schools accredited by this agency that offer postsecondary programs below the degree level may use accreditation by this agency to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV programs.*

\*WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SENIOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

\* Preaccreditation status may be used as an alternative to full accreditation by any public or private non-profit institutions accredited by this agency for the purpose of establishing eligibility to participate in Title IV programs. Please note that preaccreditation is **not** available as an option for establishing such eligibility by a for-profit institution accredited by this agency.

NOTE: "Freestanding" is defined as not part of a larger college or university that is accredited by a regional accrediting agency or another nationally recognized institutional accrediting agency. In general, a freestanding institution is a separate single-purpose institution that offers a specialized program of study in a particular field.

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## **Part 602 -- Secretary's Procedures and Criteria for the Recognition of Accrediting Agencies**

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The procedures and criteria for recognizing accrediting agencies are contained in Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations. They were published in the Federal Register on April 29, 1994 as follows:

### **Subpart A - General Provisions**

Sec.

- 602.1 Purpose.
- 602.2 Definitions.
- 602.3 Organization and membership.
- 602.4 Submission of information to the Secretary by recognized accrediting agencies.
- 602.5 Notice to accrediting agencies of Federal actions.

### **Subpart B - Recognition and Termination Procedures**

- 602.10 Application for recognition.
- 602.11 Preliminary review by the Secretary.
- 602.12 Review by the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.
- 602.13 Review and decision by the Secretary.
- 602.14 Limitation, suspension, or termination of recognition.
- 602.15 Appeals procedures.
- 602.16 Publication of list of recognized agencies.

### **Subpart C - Criteria for Secretarial Recognition**

- 602.20 Geographic scope of accrediting activities.
- 602.21 Administrative and fiscal responsibility.
- 602.22 Accreditation experience.
- 602.23 Application of standards.
- 602.24 Accreditation processes.
- 602.25 Substantive change.
- 602.26 Required accreditation standards.
- 602.27 Additional required operating procedures.
- 602.28 Due process for institutions and programs.
- 602.29 Notification of accrediting agency decisions.
- 602.30 Regard for decisions of States and other accrediting agencies.

Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b, unless otherwise noted.

### **Subpart A - General Provisions**

#### **602.1 Purpose.**

(a)(1) This part establishes procedures and criteria for the Secretary's recognition of accrediting agencies. The purpose of the Secretary's recognition of agencies is to ensure that these agencies are, for the purposes of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), or for other Federal purposes, reliable authorities as to the quality of education or training offered by the institutions of higher education or the higher education programs they accredit.

(2) The Secretary's recognition of an accrediting agency is based on the Secretary's determination that the agency satisfies the requirements of this part.

(b) The Secretary only grants recognition to those accrediting agencies that--

(1) Accredit--

(i) Institutions of higher education, provided that accreditation by the agency is a required element in enabling those institutions to establish eligibility to participate in HEA programs; or

(ii) Institutions of higher education or higher education programs, provided that accreditation by the agency is a required element in enabling those institutions or programs to establish eligibility to participate in other programs administered by the Department or by other Federal agencies;

(2) Meet the organization and membership requirements specified in 602.3;

(3) For agencies already recognized by the Secretary, comply with the information sharing requirements specified in 602.4; and

(4) Satisfy the criteria for Secretarial recognition specified in Subpart C of this part.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

## **602.2 Definitions.**

The following definitions apply to terms used in this part:

Accreditation means the status of public recognition that an accrediting agency grants to an educational institution or program that meets the agency's established standards and requirements.

Accrediting agency or agency means a legal entity, or that part of a legal entity, that conducts accrediting activities through voluntary, non-Federal peer evaluations and makes decisions concerning the accreditation or preaccreditation status of institutions, programs, or both.

Act means the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

Adverse accrediting action means the denial, withdrawal, suspension, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation, or any comparable accrediting action an agency may take against an institution or program, except that placing an institution or program on probation or issuing a show cause order against an institution or program is not an adverse accrediting action unless it is so defined by the accrediting agency.

Advisory Committee means the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.

Branch campus means (1) a location of an institution of higher education that meets the definition of this term in 34 CFR 600.2, and (2) any location of an institution, other than the main campus, at which the institution offers at least 50 percent of an educational program.

Designated Department official means the official in the Department of Education to whom the Secretary has delegated the responsibilities indicated in this part.

Final accrediting action means a final determination by an accrediting agency regarding the accreditation or preaccreditation status of an institution or program that is not subject to any further appeal within the agency.

Institution of higher education or institution means an educational institution that qualifies or may qualify as an eligible institution under 34 CFR Part 600.

Institutional accrediting agency means an agency that accredits institutions of higher education.

Nationally recognized accrediting agency, nationally recognized agency, or recognized agency means an accrediting agency that is recognized by the Secretary under this part.

Preaccreditation means the status of public recognition that an accrediting agency grants to an institution or program for a limited period of time that signifies that the agency has determined that the institution or program is progressing towards accreditation and is likely to attain accreditation before the expiration of that limited period of time.

Program means a postsecondary educational program offered by an institution of higher education that leads to an academic or professional degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential.

Programmatic accrediting agency means an agency that accredits specific educational programs that prepare students for entry into a profession, occupation, or vocation.

Representative of the public means a person who is not (1) an employee, member of the governing board, owner, or shareholder of, or consultant to, an institution or program that either is accredited by the agency or has applied for accreditation; (2) a member of any trade association or membership organization related to, affiliated with, or associated with the accrediting agency; or (3) a spouse, parent, child, or sibling of an individual identified in (1) or (2).

Secretary means the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education or any official or employee of the Department acting for the Secretary under a delegation of authority.

State means a State of the Union, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Teach-out agreement means a written agreement between accredited institutions that provides for the equitable treatment of students if one of those institutions stops offering an educational program before all students enrolled in that program complete the program.

Vocational education means an instructional program, below the bachelor's level, designed to prepare individuals with the skills and training required for employment in a specific trade, occupation, or profession related to the instructional program.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

### **602.3 Organization and membership.**

(a) The Secretary recognizes only the following categories of accrediting agencies:

- (1) A State agency that--
  - (i) Has as a principal purpose the accrediting of institutions of higher education, higher education programs, or both; and
  - (ii) Has been listed by the Secretary as a nationally recognized accrediting agency on or before October 1, 1991;
- (2) An accrediting agency that--
  - (i) Has a voluntary membership of institutions of higher education;
  - (ii) Has as a principal purpose the accrediting of institutions of higher education and that accreditation is a required element in enabling those institutions to participate in programs authorized under this Act; and
  - (iii) Satisfies the "separate and independent" requirements contained in paragraph (b) of this section;
- (3) An accrediting agency that--
  - (i) Has a voluntary membership; and
  - (ii) Has as its principal purpose the accrediting of higher education programs, or higher education programs and institutions of higher education, and that accreditation is a required element in enabling those institutions or programs, or both, to participate in Federal programs not authorized under this Act; and
- (4) An accrediting agency that, for purposes of determining eligibility for Title IV, HEA programs--
  - (i)(A) Has a voluntary membership of individuals participating in a profession; or

- (B) Has as its principal purpose the accrediting of programs within institutions that are accredited by another nationally recognized accrediting agency; and
- (ii)(A) Satisfies the "separate and independent" requirements contained in paragraph (b) of this section; or
  - (B) Obtains a waiver from the Secretary under paragraph (d) of this section of the "separate and independent" requirements contained in paragraph (b) of this section.
- (b) For purposes of this section, "separate and independent" means that--
  - (1) The members of the agency's decision-making body--who make its accrediting decisions, establish its accreditation policies, or both--are not elected or selected by the board or chief executive officer of any related, associated, or affiliated trade association or membership organization;
  - (2) At least one member of the agency's decision-making body is a representative of the public, with no less than one-seventh of the body consisting of representatives of the public;
  - (3) The agency has established and implemented guidelines for each member of the decision-making body to avoid conflicts of interest in making decisions;
  - (4) The agency's dues are paid separately from any dues paid to any related, associated, or affiliated trade association or membership organization; and
  - (5) The agency's budget is developed and determined by the agency without review by or consultation with any other entity or organization.
- (c) The Secretary considers that any joint use of personnel, services, equipment, or facilities by an accrediting agency and a related, associated, or affiliated trade association or membership organization does not violate the provisions of paragraph (b) of this section if--
  - (1) The agency pays the fair market value for its proportionate share of the joint use; and
  - (2) The joint use does not compromise the independence and confidentiality of the accreditation process.
- (d)(1) Upon request of an accrediting agency described in paragraph (a)(4) of this section, the Secretary waives the "separate and independent" requirements of this section if the agency demonstrates that--
  - (i) The agency has been listed by the Secretary as a nationally recognized agency on or before October 1, 1991; and
  - (ii) The existing relationship between the agency and the related, associated, or affiliated trade association or membership organization does not compromise the independence of the accreditation process.
- (2) To demonstrate that the existing relationship between the agency and the related, associated, or affiliated trade association or membership organization does not compromise the independence of the accreditation process, the agency must show that--
  - (i) The related, associated, or affiliated trade association or membership organization plays no role in making or ratifying the accreditation decisions of the agency;
  - (ii) The agency has sufficient budgetary and administrative autonomy to carry out its accrediting functions; and
  - (iii) The agency provides to the related, associated, or affiliated trade association or membership organization only information it makes available to the public.
- (3) An agency seeking a waiver of the "separate and independent" requirements contained in this section must apply for the waiver each time it seeks recognition or renewal of recognition by the Secretary.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.4 Submission of information to the Secretary by recognized accrediting agencies.**

Each accrediting agency recognized by the Secretary shall submit to the Secretary--

- (a) Notice of final accrediting actions taken by the agency with respect to the institutions and programs it accredits;
- (b) A copy of any annual report prepared by the agency;

- (c) A copy, updated annually, of the agency's directory of accredited institutions and programs;
- (d) A summary of the agency's major accrediting activities during the previous year (an annual data summary), if so requested by the Secretary to carry out the Secretary's responsibilities related to this part;
- (e) Upon request of the Secretary, information regarding an accredited or preaccredited institution's compliance with its Title IV, HEA program responsibilities, including its eligibility to participate in Title IV, HEA programs, for the purpose of assisting the Secretary in resolving problems with the institution's participation in these programs;
- (f) The name of any institution or program accredited by the agency that the agency has reason to believe is failing to meet its Title IV, HEA program responsibilities or is engaged in fraud or abuse and the reason for the agency's concern; and
- (g) Any proposed change in the agency's policies, procedures, or accreditation standards that might alter the agency's--
  - (1) Scope of recognition; or
  - (2) Compliance with the requirements of this part.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.5 Notice to accrediting agencies of Federal actions.**

- (a) If the Secretary takes an action against an institution or program, the Secretary notifies the appropriate accrediting agency or agencies no later than 10 days after taking that action.
- (b) If the Secretary is informed that another Federal agency is taking an action against an institution or program, the Secretary notifies the appropriate accrediting agency or agencies as soon as possible but no later than 10 days after learning of that action.
- (c) If an institution is referred for review under the State Postsecondary Review Program, the Secretary notifies the institution's accrediting agency or agencies at the same time the Secretary notifies the State Postsecondary Review Entity.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

### **Subpart B - Recognition and Termination Procedures**

#### **602.10 Application for recognition.**

- (a) An accrediting agency seeking initial or renewed recognition by the Secretary as a nationally recognized accrediting agency submits a written application to the Secretary. The application for recognition consists of--
  - (1) A statement of the agency's requested scope of recognition;
  - (2) Evidence of the agency's compliance with the criteria for recognition set forth in this part; and
  - (3) Supporting documentation.
- (b) An accrediting agency's application for recognition constitutes a grant of authority to the Secretary to conduct site visits and to gain access to agency records, personnel, and facilities on an announced or unannounced basis.
- (c) The Secretary does not make available to the public any confidential agency materials examined by Department personnel or the Secretary as part of the Secretary's evaluation of either an accrediting agency's application for recognition or its compliance with the requirements for recognition.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.11 Preliminary review by the Secretary.**

- (a) Upon receipt of an accrediting agency's application for initial or renewed recognition, the Secretary--
  - (1) Establishes a schedule for the review of the agency by the designated Department official, the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, and the Secretary;

- (2) Publishes notice of the agency's application in the FEDERAL REGISTER, inviting public comment on the agency's compliance with the requirements for recognition and stipulating a deadline for receipt of public comment; and
  - (3) Provides State Postsecondary Review Entities and other appropriate organizations with copies of the notice described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section.
- (b)(1) The designated Department official analyzes the accrediting agency's application to determine whether the agency satisfies the requirements of this part, taking into account all available relevant information concerning the compliance of the agency with the requirements for recognition. The analysis includes--
- (i) Site visits, on an announced or unannounced basis, to the agency and, at the Secretary's discretion, institutions or programs it accredits;
  - (ii) Review of public comment and other third-party information received or solicited by the Secretary, as well as any other information provided to the Secretary, concerning the performance of the agency in relation to the requirements of this part; and
  - (iii) Review of complaints or legal actions involving the agency.
- (2) The designated Department official's evaluation may also include a review of information directly related to institutions or programs accredited or preaccredited by the agency, relative to their compliance with the accrediting agency's standards, the effectiveness of the agency's standards, and the agency's application of those standards.
- (c) The designated Department official--
- (1) Prepares a written analysis of the accrediting agency;
  - (2) Sends the analysis and all supporting documentation, including all third-party comments received by the Secretary, to the agency no later than 45 days before the Advisory Committee meeting; and
  - (3) Specifies a time period, which will be no later than 14 days before the Advisory Committee meeting, during which the agency may provide the designated Department official with any written comments on the analysis.
- (d) The accrediting agency provides any written comments it chooses to make to the designated Department official before the expiration of the time period specified in paragraph (c)(3) of this section.
- (e) The designated Department official provides the Advisory Committee with the accrediting agency's application and supporting documentation, the designated Department official's analysis of the application, all information relied upon by the designated Department official in developing the analysis, any response by the agency to the analysis or third-party comment, any Department concurrence with or rebuttal to the agency's response, and any third-party information the Secretary receives regarding the agency.
- (f) The designated Department official provides the agency with a copy of any Department rebuttal provided to the Advisory Committee under paragraph (e) of this section.
- (g) If the designated Department official fails to provide the agency with the materials described in paragraph (c)(2) of this section within the 45-day time frame specified in that section, the agency may request that the Advisory Committee defer action on its application until the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.
- (h) At least 30 days before the Advisory Committee meeting, the Secretary publishes a notice of the meeting in the FEDERAL REGISTER and invites interested parties, including those who submitted third-party comments concerning an agency's compliance with the requirements for recognition, to make oral presentations before the Advisory Committee.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.12 Review by the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity.**

- (a)(1) The Advisory Committee considers an accrediting agency's application at a public meeting and invites the designated Department official, the agency, and other interested parties to make oral presentations at the meeting.
- (2) The designated Department official arranges for a transcript to be made of the Advisory Committee meeting.

- (b) At the conclusion of the meeting, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary approve or deny recognition of the accrediting agency or defer a decision on the agency's application.
- (c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the Advisory Committee recommends recognition of an agency if the agency complies with each of the requirements of this part.
  - (2) The Advisory Committee may recommend recognition despite finding that the agency failed to comply with each of the requirements of this part if the Advisory Committee provides the Secretary with a detailed explanation as to why it believes the agency's failure to comply with the particular requirement(s) does not require denial or deferral.
  - (3) If the Advisory Committee recommends recognition, the Advisory Committee also recommends the scope of recognition for the agency and a recognition period.
  - (4) If the Advisory Committee recommends denial of recognition, the Advisory Committee specifies the reasons for the recommendation and the requirements of this part that the agency failed to meet.
  - (5) If the Advisory Committee recommends deferral of a decision on the agency's application, the Advisory Committee specifies the reasons for the recommendation, the requirements of this part that it believes the agency has not met, and a recommended deferral period.
- (d) After the meeting, the Advisory Committee forwards its written recommendations concerning recognition to the Secretary.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b, 1145)

#### **602.13 Review and decision by the Secretary.**

- (a) The Secretary determines whether to grant national recognition to an applicant accrediting agency based on the Advisory Committee's recommendation and the full record of the agency's application, including all oral and written presentations to the Advisory Committee by the agency, the designated Department official, and interested third parties.
- (b)(1) Before making a final decision, the Secretary affords both the designated Department official and the accrediting agency an opportunity to contest, in writing, the Advisory Committee's recommendation. If either the agency or the designated Department official wishes to contest the recommendation, that party shall notify the Secretary and the other party no later than 10 days after the Advisory Committee meeting.
  - (2) If the party contesting the Advisory Committee's recommendation wishes to make a written submission to the Secretary, the Secretary must receive that submission no later than 30 days after the Advisory Committee meeting. However, the contesting party may not submit any evidence to the Secretary that it did not submit to the Advisory Committee. The contesting party shall simultaneously provide a copy of its submission to the other party.
  - (3) If the noncontesting party wishes to respond in writing to the Secretary, the Secretary must receive that submission no later than 30 days after the noncontesting party receives the contesting party's submission. However, the noncontesting party may not submit any evidence to the Secretary that it did not submit to the Advisory Committee. The noncontesting party shall simultaneously provide a copy of its response to the contesting party.
  - (4) If the Advisory Committee's recommendation is contested, the Secretary renders a final decision after taking into account the two parties' timely written submissions, if any.
- (c) The Secretary approves the accrediting agency for national recognition if the Secretary determines that the agency satisfies each of the requirements contained in this part.
- (d) The Secretary approves the accrediting agency for national recognition even if the agency does not satisfy each of the requirements contained in this part if the Secretary determines that the agency's effectiveness is not impaired by the noncompliance.
- (e) If the Secretary approves the accrediting agency for national recognition, the Secretary defines--
  - (1) The scope of the agency's recognition for Federal purposes, which shall include the--
    - (i) Geographic area;
    - (ii) Degrees and certificates awarded;
    - (iii) Types of institutions, programs, or both that the agency may accredit; and
    - (iv) Preaccreditation status(es), if any, that the Secretary approves for recognition; and
  - (2) The recognition period, which does not exceed five years.

- (f) If the Secretary denies recognition to the accrediting agency or grants recognition for a scope narrower than that requested by the agency, the Secretary indicates in writing the reasons for that decision.
- (g) If the Secretary defers a decision on the accrediting agency's application, the Secretary--
  - (1) Indicates in writing the reasons for the deferral and the deferral period; and
  - (2) Automatically extends any previously granted recognition period until the Secretary reaches a decision on the renewal application.
- (h) If the Secretary does not reach a final decision on an accrediting agency's application for renewal of recognition before the expiration of the agency's recognition period, the Secretary automatically extends the previously granted recognition period until the Secretary reaches a decision on the renewal application.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.14 Limitation, suspension, or termination of recognition.**

- (a)(1) The Secretary may limit, suspend, or terminate the recognition of an accrediting agency before completion of its previously granted recognition period if the Secretary determines, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that the agency fails or has failed to satisfy any of the requirements of this part.
  - (2)(i) If the agency requests a hearing, the hearing is conducted by the Advisory Committee or by a subcommittee of five members of the Advisory Committee, selected by the Secretary, if the Secretary determines that a more timely hearing is necessary than can be accommodated by the schedule of the full Advisory Committee.
  - (ii) If the Secretary selects a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee instead of the full Advisory Committee, the agency may challenge the membership of the subcommittee on grounds of conflict of interest on the part of one or more of the members of the subcommittee, and the Secretary replaces the member(s) if the agency's challenge is successful.
  - (iii) The designated Department official arranges for a transcript to be made of the hearing.
- (b) The designated Department official begins a limitation, suspension, or termination proceeding against an accrediting agency by sending the agency a notice that--
  - (1) Informs the agency of the Secretary's intent to limit, suspend, or terminate its recognition;
  - (2) Identifies the alleged violations of the governing regulations that constitute the basis for the action;
  - (3) Describes the limits to be imposed if the Secretary seeks to limit the accrediting agency;
  - (4) Specifies the effective date of the limitation, suspension, or termination; and
  - (5) Informs the agency that it may--
    - (i) Submit to the designated Department official a written response to the notice no later than 30 days after it receives the notice; and
    - (ii) Request a hearing, which shall take place in Washington, D.C., before the Advisory Committee or subcommittee if the agency submits a hearing request to the designated Department official no later than 30 days after it receives the notice.
- (c)(1) As part of its response to the limitation, suspension, or termination notice or its hearing request, if any, the accrediting agency shall identify the issues and facts in dispute and its position with regard to those issues and facts.
  - (2) After receipt of the agency's response and hearing request, if any, the designated Department official--
    - (i) Transmits the limitation, suspension, or termination notice and the agency's response, if any, to that notice to the Advisory Committee or subcommittee; and
    - (ii) Establishes the date and time of any hearing before the Advisory Committee or subcommittee.
- (d)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, if a hearing is held, the Advisory Committee or subcommittee shall allow the designated Department official, the accrediting agency, and any interested party to make an oral or written presentation. That presentation may include the introduction of written and oral evidence.

- (2) If the designated Department official and the accrediting agency each agree, the Advisory Committee or subcommittee review shall be based solely on the written materials submitted to it under paragraph (c)(2)(i) of this section.
- (e)(1) After the Advisory Committee or subcommittee reviews the presentations, it shall issue an opinion in which it--
- (i) Makes findings of fact based upon the evidence presented;
  - (ii) Recommends whether a limitation, suspension, or termination of the agency's recognition is warranted; and
  - (iii) Provides the reasons for that recommendation.
- (2) The Advisory Committee or subcommittee shall--
- (i) Transmit its written opinion to the Secretary; and
  - (ii) Provide a copy of its opinion to the designated Department official and the accrediting agency.
- (f)(1) Unless the Advisory Committee's or subcommittee's recommendation is appealed, after receiving the recommendation, the Secretary issues a decision on whether to limit, suspend, or terminate the agency's recognition, based upon the Advisory Committee's or subcommittee's recommendation and the full record before the Advisory Committee or subcommittee.
- (2) Either the accrediting agency or the designated Department official may appeal the Advisory Committee's or subcommittee's recommendation by filing a notice of appeal with the Secretary within 10 days of receipt of the Advisory Committee's or subcommittee's recommendation. If either party files an appeal with the Secretary, that party shall simultaneously provide a copy of the notice of appeal to the other party.
- (3) The party appealing the Advisory Committee's or subcommittee's recommendation has 30 days after its receipt of the recommendation to make a written submission to the Secretary challenging the recommendation. However, the appealing party may not submit any evidence that was not submitted to the Advisory Committee or subcommittee. The appealing party shall simultaneously provide a copy of the submission to the other party.
- (4) The nonappealing party has 30 days from the date it receives the appealing party's submission to file a written response to the Secretary regarding the submissions of the appealing party and shall simultaneously provide the appealing party with a copy of its response. The nonappealing party may not submit any evidence that was not submitted to the Advisory Committee or subcommittee.
- (5) If the Advisory Committee's or subcommittee's recommendation is appealed, the Secretary renders a final decision after taking into account that recommendation and the parties' written submissions on appeal.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.15 Appeals procedures.**

An accrediting agency may appeal the Secretary's final decision under this part regarding the agency's recognition to the Federal courts as a final decision in accordance with applicable Federal law.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.16 Publication of list of recognized agencies.**

- (a) The Secretary periodically publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER a list of recognized accrediting agencies and each agency's scope of recognition.
- (b) If the Secretary denies recognition to a previously recognized accrediting agency, or limits, suspends, or terminates its recognition during a previously granted recognition period, the Secretary publishes a notice of that action in the FEDERAL REGISTER and makes available to the public, upon request, the Secretary's determination.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

## **Subpart C - Criteria for Secretarial Recognition**

### **602.20 Geographic scope of accrediting activities.**

To be listed by the Secretary as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, an accrediting agency must demonstrate to the Secretary that the geographical scope of its accrediting activities covers--

- (a) A State, if the agency is a component of a State government;
- (b) A region of the United States that includes at least three States that are contiguous or in close geographical proximity to one another; or
- (c) The United States.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

### **602.21 Administrative and fiscal responsibility.**

- (a) To be listed by the Secretary as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, an accrediting agency must demonstrate to the Secretary that it has the administrative and fiscal capability to carry out its accreditation activities in light of its requested scope of recognition.
- (b) The Secretary considers that an accrediting agency meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section if it has, and will likely continue to have--
  - (1) Adequate administrative staff to--
    - (i) Carry out its accrediting responsibilities effectively; and
    - (ii) Manage its finances effectively;
  - (2) Competent and knowledgeable individuals, qualified by experience and training, responsible for on-site evaluation, policy-making, and decision-making regarding accreditation and preaccreditation status;
  - (3) Representation on its evaluation, policy, and decision-making bodies of--
    - (i) For an institutional accrediting agency, both academic and administrative personnel; and
    - (ii) For a programmatic accrediting agency, both educators and practitioners;
  - (4) Representation of the public on all decision-making bodies;
  - (5) Clear and effective controls against conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest by the agency's board members, commissioners, evaluation team members, consultants, administrative staff, and other agency representatives;
  - (6) Adequate financial resources to carry out its accrediting responsibilities, taking into account the funds required to conduct the range of accrediting activities specified in the requested scope of recognition and the income necessary to meet the anticipated costs of its activities in the future; and
  - (7) Complete and accurate records of--
    - (i) Its last two full accreditation or preaccreditation reviews of each institution or program, including on-site evaluation team reports, institution or program responses to on-site reports, periodic review reports, any reports of special reviews conducted by the agency between regular reviews, and the institution's or program's most recent self-study report; and
    - (ii) All preaccreditation and accreditation decisions, including all adverse actions.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

### **602.22 Accreditation experience.**

- (a) To be listed by the Secretary as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, an accrediting agency must demonstrate to the Secretary that it has adequate experience in accrediting institutions, programs, or both.
- (b) The Secretary considers that an accrediting agency satisfies the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section if it has--

- (1) Granted accreditation or preaccreditation status to institutions or programs in the geographical area for which it seeks recognition;
- (2) Conducted accreditation activities covering the range of the specific degrees, certificates, and programs for which it seeks recognition, including--
  - (i) Granting accreditation or preaccreditation status; and
  - (ii) Providing technical assistance related to accreditation to institutions, programs, or both; and
- (3) Established policies, evaluative criteria, and procedures, and made evaluative decisions, that are accepted throughout the United States by--
  - (i) Educators and educational institutions; and
  - (ii) Licensing bodies, practitioners, and employers in the professional or vocational fields for which the educational institutions or programs within the agency's jurisdiction prepare their students.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.23 Application of standards.**

- (a) To be listed by the Secretary as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, an accrediting agency must demonstrate to the Secretary that it consistently applies and enforces written standards that ensure that the education or training offered by an institution or program is of sufficient quality to achieve, for the duration of any accreditation period granted by the agency, the stated objective for which it is offered.
- (b) The Secretary considers that an accrediting agency meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section if--
  - (1) The agency's written standards and procedures for accreditation and preaccreditation, if that latter status is offered, comply with the requirements of this part;
  - (2) The agency's preaccreditation standards, if offered, are appropriately related to the agency's accreditation standards, with a limit on preaccreditation status of no more than five years for any institution or program;
  - (3) The agency's organizations, functions, and procedures include effective controls against the inconsistent application of its criteria and standards;
  - (4) The agency bases its decisions regarding accreditation or preaccreditation on its published criteria; and
  - (5) The agency maintains a systematic program of review designed to ensure that its criteria and standards are valid and reliable indicators of the quality of the education or training provided by the institutions or programs it accredits and are relevant to the education or training needs of affected students.
  - (6) The agency demonstrates to the Secretary that, as a result of its program of review under paragraph (b)(5) of this section, each of its standards provides--
    - (i) A valid measure of the aspects of educational quality it is intended to measure; and
    - (ii) A consistent basis for determining the educational quality of different institutions and programs.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.24 Accreditation processes.**

- (a) To be listed by the Secretary as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, an accrediting agency must demonstrate to the Secretary that it has effective mechanisms for evaluating compliance with its standards and that those mechanisms cover the full range of an institution's or program's offerings, including those offerings conducted at branch campuses and additional locations.
- (b) The Secretary considers that an accrediting agency meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section if--
  - (1) In determining whether to grant initial or renewed accreditation, the accrediting agency evaluates whether an institution or program--

- (i) Maintains clearly specified educational objectives consistent with its mission and appropriate in light of the degrees or certificates it awards;
  - (ii) Is successful in achieving its stated objectives;
  - (iii) Maintains degree and certificate requirements that at least conform to commonly accepted standards; and
  - (iv) Complies with the agency's criteria;
- (2) In reaching its determination to grant initial or renewed accreditation, the accrediting agency--
- (i) Requires an in-depth self-study by each institution or program, in accordance with guidance provided by the agency, that includes the assessment of educational quality and the institution's or program's continuing efforts to improve educational quality;
  - (ii) Conducts at least one on-site review of the institution or program at which the agency obtains sufficient information to enable it to determine if the institution or program complies with the agency's criteria;
  - (iii) Conducts its own analyses and evaluations of the self-study and supporting documentation furnished by the institution or program, and any other appropriate information from other sources, to determine whether the institution or program complies with the agency's standards; and
  - (iv) Provides to the institution or program a detailed written report on its review assessing--
    - (A) The institution's or program's compliance with the agency's standards, including areas needing improvement; and
    - (B) The institution's or program's performance with respect to student achievement;
- (3) In addition to the on-site visit described in paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section, an institutional accrediting agency whose accreditation enables the institutions it accredits to seek eligibility to participate in Title IV, HEA programs conducts--during the interval between the agency's award of accreditation or preaccreditation to the institution or program and the expiration of the accreditation or preaccreditation period--at least one unannounced on-site inspection at each institution that provides vocational education or training for the purpose of determining whether the institution has the personnel, facilities, and resources it claimed to have either during its previous on-site review or in subsequent reports to the accrediting agency;
- (4) The accrediting agency--
- (i) Monitors institutions or programs throughout the accreditation or preaccreditation period to ensure continuing compliance with the agency's standards or criteria; and
  - (ii) Conducts special evaluations, site visits, or both, as necessary; and
- (5) The accrediting agency regularly reevaluates institutions or programs that have been granted accreditation or preaccreditation.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.25 Substantive change.**

- (a) To be listed by the Secretary as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, an institutional accrediting agency must demonstrate to the Secretary that it maintains adequate substantive change policies that ensure that any substantive change to the educational mission or program(s) of an institution after the agency has granted accreditation or preaccreditation to the institution does not adversely affect the capacity of the institution to continue to meet the agency's standards.
- (b) The Secretary considers that an accrediting agency meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section if--
  - (1) The agency requires prior approval of the substantive change by the agency before the change is included in the agency's previous grant of accreditation or preaccreditation to the institution; and
  - (2) The agency's definition of substantive change includes, but is not limited to, the following types of change:
    - (i) Any change in the established mission or objectives of the institution;

- (ii) Any change in the legal status or form of control of the institution;
- (iii) The addition of courses or programs that represent a significant departure, in terms of either in the content or method of delivery, from those that were offered when the agency most recently evaluated the institution;
- (iv) The addition of courses or programs at a degree or credential level above that included in the institution's current accreditation or preaccreditation;
- (v) A change from clock hours to credit hours or vice versa; and
- (vi) A substantial increase in--
  - (A) The number of clock or credit hours awarded for successful completion of a program; or
  - (B) The length of a program.
- (c) The agency has discretion to determine the procedures it will use to grant prior approval of the substantive change, which may, but need not, require an on-site evaluation before approval is granted.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.26 Required accreditation standards.**

- (a)(1) To be listed by the Secretary as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, an accrediting agency must demonstrate to the Secretary that its accreditation or preaccreditation standards, or both, are sufficiently rigorous to ensure that the agency is a reliable authority as to the quality of the education or training provided by the institutions or programs it accredits.
  - (2) For a programmatic accrediting agency that does not serve as an institutional accrediting agency for any of the programs it accredits, the standards must address the areas contained in paragraph (b) of this section in terms of the type and level of the program rather than in terms of the institution.
  - (3) If none of the institutions an agency accredits participates in any Title IV, HEA program, or if the agency only accredits programs within institutions accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the Secretary, the accrediting agency is not required to have the standards described in paragraphs (b)(7), (b)(8), (b)(10), and (b)(12) of this section.
- (b) In order to assure that an accrediting agency is a reliable authority as to the quality of the education or training provided by an institution or program it accredits, the agency must have standards that effectively address the quality of an institution or program in the following areas:
  - (1) Curricula.
  - (2) Faculty.
  - (3) Facilities, equipment, and supplies.
  - (4) Fiscal and administrative capacity as appropriate to the specified scale of operations.
  - (5) Student support services.
  - (6) Recruiting and admissions practices, academic calendars, catalogs, publications, grading, and advertising.
  - (7) Program length and tuition and fees in relation to the subject matters taught and the objectives of the degrees or credentials offered.
  - (8) Measures of program length in clock hours or credit hours.
  - (9) Success with respect to student achievement in relation to mission, including, as appropriate, consideration of course completion, State licensing examination, and job placement rates.
  - (10) Default rates in the student loan programs under Title IV of the Act, based on the most recent data provided by the Secretary.
  - (11) Record of student complaints received by, or available to, the agency.
  - (12) Compliance with the institution's program responsibilities under Title IV of the Act, including any results of financial or compliance audits, program reviews, and such other information as the Secretary may provide to the agency.
- (c)(1) An accrediting agency shall take appropriate action if its review of an institution or program under any standard indicates that the institution or program is not in compliance with that standard.
  - (2) If the agency believes that the institution or program is not in compliance with the standards, the agency shall--
    - (i) Take prompt adverse action against the institution or program; or

- (ii) Require the institution or program to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance with the agency's standards within a time frame specified by the agency.
- (3) The accrediting agency has sole discretion to determine the course of action it chooses under paragraph (c)(2) of this section and, if it selects the option specified in paragraph (c)(2)(ii) of this section, the time frame for the institution or program to bring itself into compliance with agency standards. However, except as indicated in paragraph (c)(4) of this section, the specified period may not exceed--
  - (i) Twelve months, if the program is less than one year in length;
  - (ii) Eighteen months, if the program is at least one year, but less than two years, in length; or
  - (iii) Two years, if the program is at least two years in length.
- (4) If the institution or program does not bring itself into compliance within the specified period, the agency must take adverse action unless the agency extends the period for achieving compliance for good cause.
- (d) An accrediting agency shall have a reasonable basis for determining that the information it relies on for making the assessments described in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section is accurate.
- (e) An accrediting agency that has established and applies the standards in paragraph (b) of this section may establish any additional accreditation standards as it deems appropriate.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1091, 1099b)

#### **602.27 Additional required operating procedures.**

- (a) To be listed by the Secretary as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, an accrediting agency must demonstrate to the Secretary that it satisfies the procedural requirements contained in other provisions of this part and the additional requirements contained in paragraphs (b) through (h) of this section.
- (b) If the accrediting agency accredits institutions and that accreditation enables those institutions to seek eligibility to participate in Title IV, HEA programs--
  - (1) The agency requires the institution to--
    - (i) Notify the agency if the institution plans to establish a branch campus; and
    - (ii) Submit a business plan described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section for the branch campus;
  - (2) The business plan that an institution submits under paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section must contain a description of--
    - (i) The educational program to be offered at the branch campus;
    - (ii) The projected revenues and expenditures and cash flow at the branch campus; and
    - (iii) The operation, management, and physical resources at the branch campus;
  - (3) The agency extends accreditation to the branch campus only after evaluating the business plan and taking other necessary actions to permit the agency to determine that the branch campus has sufficient educational, financial, operational, management, and physical resources to satisfy the accrediting agency's standards for accreditation;
  - (4) The agency undertakes a site visit of the branch campus as soon as practicable, but no later than six months after the establishment of that branch campus;
  - (5) The agency undertakes a site visit of an institution that has undergone a change of ownership that resulted in a change of control as soon as practicable, but no later than six months after the change of ownership; and
  - (6) The agency requires any institution it accredits that enters into a teach-out agreement with another institution to submit that teach-out agreement to the agency for approval and approves the teach-out agreement if the agreement--
    - (i) Is consistent with applicable standards and regulations; and
    - (ii) Provides for the equitable treatment of students by ensuring that--
      - (A) Students are provided, without additional charge, all of the instruction promised by the closed institution prior to its closure but not provided to the students because of the closure; and

- (B) The teach-out institution is geographically proximate to the closed institution and can demonstrate compatibility of its program structure and scheduling to that of the closed institution.
- (c) The accrediting agency maintains and makes publicly available written materials describing--
  - (1) Each type of accreditation and preaccreditation granted by the agency;
  - (2) Its procedures for applying for accreditation or preaccreditation;
  - (3) The criteria and procedures used by the agency for determining whether to grant, reaffirm, reinstate, deny, restrict, revoke, or take any other action related to each type of accreditation and preaccreditation that the agency grants;
  - (4) The names, academic and professional qualifications, and relevant employment and organizational affiliations of the members of the agency's policy and decision-making bodies as well as the agency's principal administrative staff; and
  - (5) The institutions or programs that the agency currently accredits or preaccredits and the date when the agency will review or reconsider the accreditation or preaccreditation of each institution or program.
- (d) In accordance with agency policy, the accrediting agency publishes the year when an institution or program subject to its jurisdiction is being considered for accreditation or preaccreditation and provides an opportunity for third-party comment, either in writing or at a public hearing, at the agency's discretion, concerning the institution's or program's qualifications for accreditation or preaccreditation.
- (e) The accrediting agency provides advance public notice of proposed new or revised criteria, giving interested parties adequate opportunity to comment on these proposals prior to their adoption.
- (f) The accrediting agency--
  - (1) Reviews any complaint it receives against an accredited institution or program, or the agency itself, that is related to the agency's standards, criteria, or procedures; and
  - (2) Resolves the complaint in a timely, fair, and equitable manner.
- (g) The accrediting agency ensures that, if an institution or program elects to make a public disclosure of its accreditation or preaccreditation status granted by the agency, the institution or program discloses that status accurately, including the specific academic or instructional programs covered by that status and the name, address, and telephone number of the accrediting agency.
- (h) The accrediting agency provides for the public correction of incorrect or misleading information released by an accredited or preaccredited institution or program about--
  - (1) The accreditation status of the institution or program;
  - (2) The contents of reports of site team visitors; and
  - (3) The agency's accrediting actions with respect to the institution or program.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.28 Due process for institutions and programs.**

- (a) To be listed by the Secretary as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, an accrediting agency must demonstrate to the Secretary that the procedures it uses throughout the accrediting process satisfy due process requirements.
- (b) The Secretary considers that an accrediting agency's procedures satisfy due process requirements if--
  - (1) The agency sets forth in writing its procedures governing its accreditation or preaccreditation processes;
  - (2) The agency's procedures afford an institution or program a reasonable period of time to comply with agency requests for information and documents;
  - (3) The agency notifies the institution or program in writing of any adverse accrediting action;
  - (4) The agency's notice details the basis for any adverse accrediting action;
  - (5) The agency permits the institution or program the opportunity to appeal an adverse accrediting action, and the right to representation by counsel during an appeal, except that the agency, at its sole discretion, may limit the appeal to a written appeal; and
  - (6) The agency notifies the appellant in writing of the result of the appeal and the basis for that result.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.29 Notification of accrediting agency decisions.**

(a) To be listed by the Secretary as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, an accrediting agency must demonstrate to the Secretary that its written policies, procedures, and practices require it to notify the Secretary, the appropriate State postsecondary review entity, the appropriate accrediting agencies, and the public of the following types of decisions, no later than 30 days after a decision is made:

(1) A decision by the agency to award initial accreditation or preaccreditation to an institution or program.

(2) A final decision by the agency to--

(i) Deny, withdraw, suspend, or terminate the accreditation or preaccreditation of an institution or program; or

(ii) Take other adverse action against an institution or program.

(3) A decision by the agency to place an institution or program on probation.

(4) A decision by an accredited institution or program to withdraw voluntarily from accreditation or formal preaccreditation status.

(5) A decision by an accredited institution or program to let its accreditation or preaccreditation lapse.

(b) If the agency's final decision is to deny, withdraw, suspend, or terminate the accreditation or preaccreditation of an institution or program or to take other adverse action against an institution or program, the agency must notify the Secretary of that decision at the same time it notifies the institution or program.

(c) No later than 60 days after a final decision, the accrediting agency makes available to the Secretary, the appropriate State postsecondary review entity, and the public upon request, a brief statement summarizing the reasons for the agency's determination to deny, withdraw, suspend, or terminate the accreditation or preaccreditation of an institution or program, and the comments, if any, that the affected institution or program may wish to make with regard to that decision.

(d)(1) For purposes of the decisions described in paragraph (a)(4) of this section, the date of the decision is the date on which the accrediting agency receives notification by the institution or program that it is voluntarily withdrawing from accreditation or preaccreditation.

(2) For purposes of the decisions described in paragraph (a)(5) of this section, the date of the decision is the date on which accreditation or preaccreditation lapses.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

#### **602.30 Regard for decisions of States and other accrediting agencies.**

(a) To be listed by the Secretary as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, an accrediting agency must demonstrate to the Secretary that--

(1) If the accrediting agency accredits institutions--

(i) The agency accredits only those institutions that are legally authorized under applicable State law to provide a program of education beyond the secondary level;

(ii) The agency does not renew, under the conditions described in paragraph (b) of this section, the accreditation or preaccreditation of an institution during a period in which the institution--

(A) Is the subject of an interim action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency potentially leading to the suspension, revocation, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation;

(B) Is the subject of an interim action by a State agency potentially leading to the suspension, revocation, or termination of the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education;

(C) Has been notified of a threatened loss of accreditation, and the due process procedures required by the action have not been completed; or

- (D) Has been notified of a threatened suspension, revocation, or termination by the State of the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education, and the due process procedures required by the action have not been completed
  - (iii) In considering whether to grant initial accreditation or preaccreditation to an institution, the agency takes into account actions by--
    - (A) Recognized institutional accrediting agencies that have denied accreditation or preaccreditation to the institution, placed the institution on public probationary status, or revoked the accreditation or preaccreditation of the institution; and
    - (B) A State agency that has suspended, revoked, or terminated the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education;
  - (iv) If the agency grants accreditation or preaccreditation to an institution notwithstanding the actions described in paragraph (a)(1)(ii) or (a)(1)(iii) of this section, the agency provides the Secretary a thorough explanation, consistent with its accreditation standards, why the previous action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency or the State does not preclude the agency's grant of accreditation or preaccreditation; and
  - (v) If a recognized institutional accrediting agency takes an adverse action with respect to a dually-accredited institution or places the institution on public probationary status, or if a recognized programmatic accrediting agency takes an adverse action for reasons associated with the overall institution rather than the specific program against a program offered by an institution or places the program on public probation, the agency promptly reviews its accreditation or preaccreditation of the institution to determine if it should also take adverse action against the institution.
- (2) If the accrediting agency accredits programs--
- (i) The agency does not renew, under the conditions described in paragraph (b) of this section, the accreditation or preaccreditation status of a program during any period in which the institution offering the program--
    - (A) Is the subject of an interim action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency potentially leading to the suspension, revocation, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation;
    - (B) Is the subject of an interim action by a State agency potentially leading to the suspension, revocation, or termination of the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education;
    - (C) Has been notified of a threatened loss of accreditation, and the due process procedures required by the action have not been complete;
    - (D) Has been notified of a threatened suspension, revocation, or termination by the State of the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education, and the due process procedures required by the action have not been completed;
  - (ii) In considering whether to grant initial accreditation or preaccreditation to a program, the agency takes into account actions by-
    - (A) Recognized institutional accrediting agencies that have denied accreditation or preaccreditation to the institution offering the program, placed the institution on public probationary status, or revoked the accreditation or preaccreditation of the institution; and
    - (B) A State agency that has suspended, revoked, or terminated the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education;
  - (iii) If the agency grants accreditation or preaccreditation to a program notwithstanding the actions described in paragraph (a)(2)(ii) of this section, the agency provides to the Secretary a thorough explanation, consistent with its accreditation standards, why the previous action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency or the State does not preclude the agency's grant of accreditation or preaccreditation; and
  - (iv) If a recognized institutional accrediting agency takes adverse action with respect to the institution offering the program or places the institution on public probationary status, the agency promptly reviews its accreditation or preaccreditation of the program to determine if it should take adverse action against the program.

(3) The agency routinely shares with other appropriate recognized accrediting agencies and State agencies information about the accreditation or preaccreditation status of an institution or program and any adverse actions it has taken against an accredited or preaccredited institution or program.

(b) An accrediting agency is subject to the requirements contained in paragraph (a) of this section if the accrediting agency knew, or should have known, of the actions being taken by another recognized accrediting agency or State agency.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099b)

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# The Recognition Process

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The recognition procedures for accrediting agencies are set forth in subpart B of part 602. Other information related to an agency's application for recognition is provided below.

## The Application for Recognition

Accrediting agencies desiring to be recognized by the Secretary of Education must apply for recognition and must demonstrate their compliance with the Criteria for Secretarial Recognition (34 CFR Part 602). An agency's application for recognition generally consists of a statement of the agency's requested scope of recognition, evidence of the agency's compliance with the criteria for recognition set forth in part 602, and supporting documentation.

There is no standard application form to be used by agencies applying for recognition. Rather, an agency's application for initial recognition or renewal of recognition consists of a narrative statement, organized on a criterion-by-criterion basis, showing how the agency complies with the Criteria for Secretarial Recognition. For many recognition requirements, the narrative statement need consist only of a brief narrative demonstrating how that the agency complies with a particular requirement. This statement must, however, be accompanied by clearly referenced supporting documentation demonstrating that the agency meets the requirement. For example, 602.21(b)(5) of the regulations requires an agency to have clear and effective controls against conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest by the agency's board members, commissioners, evaluation team members, consultants, administrative staff, and other agency representatives. The agency's narrative statement addressing this issue might simply be a statement that the agency's policies against conflicts of interest may be found in a particular policy document. The agency would have to submit a copy of that document and identify the pages on which the relevant policies were located. The agency might also choose to include a copy of the minutes of a meeting at which an agency representative abstained from voting because of a conflict of interest to demonstrate that it adheres to its written policies.

For other recognition requirements, because of their nature, the brief narrative statement, with supporting documentation, is insufficient to demonstrate compliance. In these cases, the agency's narrative statement should provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the agency's policies, standards, procedures, and practices comply with the requirement. For example, 602.23(b)(5) of the regulations requires that an agency maintain a program of review designed to ensure that its criteria and standards are valid and reliable indicators of the quality of the education or training provided and are relevant to the education or training needs of affected students. As this requirement is fundamental to sound accreditation practices, the agency's narrative statement would have to describe in depth the processes the agency uses to review and update its criteria and standards, the tests it uses to determine their validity and reliability, as well as the results of those tests, and how it determines they are relevant to the needs of affected students. The agency would also have to provide relevant supporting documentation, such as policy statements pertaining to its review program for validating and updating its standards, surveys and the results of those surveys, the constituencies involved in the review process, etc.

The table at the end of this section identifies those recognition requirements for which the brief narrative approach is acceptable and those for which a more detailed narrative statement is required. An agency may use the more detailed narrative format to demonstrate compliance with any of the recognition requirements for which the brief narrative approach is acceptable, if it so desires.

If an agency's application for recognition does not make specific reference to the following documents and does not include them as supporting documentation for one or more of the recognition requirements, the agency must include them as additional supporting documentation:

1. The agency's accreditation standards and procedures
2. The agency's policies and procedures
3. The agency's most recent externally audited financial statement

4. Published lists of accredited schools or programs
5. Self-study guidelines
6. Guidance aid training materials for visiting team members
7. Sample completed self-study reports
8. Sample site visit reports.
9. Sample institution responses to site visit reports.
10. Sample minutes of decision meetings.
11. A list of all complaints received by the agency against an accredited program during the six-month period immediately preceding the agency's submission of its application for recognition, together with a summary of the issues involved in each complaint, the agency's disposition of that complaint, and the current status of the complaint, if it is not resolved by the time the agency submits its application.
12. The agency's constitution and by-laws.

Note: it would be helpful if the samples provided by an agency for items 7-10 above referred to the same institution(s) or program(s).

## **Copies of the Application**

An agency's application for recognition plus three copies should be submitted to the Chief of the Accrediting Agency Evaluation Branch (AAEB) at the address below. Only the original of bulkier exhibit items, such as self-study reports or team reports, need be submitted with the petition; there is no need for three copies of these items.

Ms. Naomi Randolph  
Chief, Accreditation Agency  
Evaluation Branch  
U. S. Department of Education  
ROB-3, Room 3915  
7th and D Streets SW  
Washington, DC 20202-5244

## **Time Frame for Submission of an Application**

### Application for Initial Recognition

The Accrediting Agency Evaluation Branch (AAEB) accepts applications for initial recognition at any time. To receive consideration at a particular meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, an agency seeking initial recognition must submit its application at least six months in advance of that meeting. Consideration of the agency's application at the first Advisory Committee meeting that occurs after the six-month time frame is not guaranteed, however, as Department staff may need more time to complete its independent evaluation of the agency and to observe at least some of the agency's site visits and decision meetings, as required by 602.11(b)(1).

An agency considering applying for initial recognition is encouraged to contact AAEB as early as possible to discuss its possible application and to afford Department staff the opportunity to observe its site visits and decision meetings. Because observation of an agency's site visits and decision meetings by Department staff is a critical component of the review of the agency's application, it is imperative that an agency seeking initial recognition submit a list of scheduled site visits and decision meetings with its application for recognition. If an agency does not provide Department staff with an opportunity to observe an adequate number of site visits and decision

meetings (typically 2-3 of each) before the Advisory Committee meeting at which the agency requests consideration of its application, Department staff may recommend that the agency's application be denied.

Agencies seeking initial recognition are reminded that recognition by the Secretary is not a prerequisite for an agency to function as an accrediting body, i.e., an agency does not have to obtain recognition before it begins to accredit institutions or programs. Rather, recognition is granted by the Secretary to an agency that can demonstrate by its accrediting actions and decisions that it is a reliable authority regarding the quality of education offered by the institutions or programs it accredits. In general, this means that an accrediting agency seeking initial recognition has had about two years' experience functioning as accrediting agency - establishing standards, evaluating institutions or programs for compliance with those standards, and making accrediting decisions based on those standards - before it submits its application for recognition. It also means that the agency has gained acceptance of its standards, methods of evaluation, and accreditation decisions, as required by 602.22, during those two years. In addition, it means that the agency has demonstrated that it has been organized under conditions that reasonably ensure its stability and permanence.

#### Application for Continued Recognition

Agencies that have been granted recognition by the Secretary are notified by the Secretary, each time recognition is granted or renewed, of the expiration date of their recognition period. They should plan to submit their application for renewal of recognition approximately six months in advance of the spring or fall meeting of the Advisory Committee that precedes the expiration date. AAEB usually notifies agencies a year in advance of the Advisory Committee meeting at which their renewal application is to be considered and informs them of the date by which their application is due to AAEB. In the same notice, AAEB also requests a schedule of the agencies' site visits and decision meetings for the upcoming year in order to plan its observation of at least some of those activities, as required by 602.11(b)(1).

## **Hearing Before the Advisory Committee**

When Department staff completes its evaluation of an agency's application for recognition, the designated Department official places the agency's application on the agenda of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity. The designated Department official also provides the Advisory Committee with the accrediting agency's application and supporting documentation, the Department staff analysis of the application, all information relied upon by Department staff in developing the analysis, any response by the agency to the analysis or third-party comment, any Department concurrence with or rebuttal to the agency's response, and any third-party information the Secretary receives regarding the agency.

The Advisory Committee meets at least twice a year to review applications for recognition submitted by accrediting agencies. The usual times for the Committee meetings are spring (May-June) and fall (November-December). Although each member of the Advisory Committee receives every Department staff analysis of an application for recognition and all the other materials mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the Executive Director of the Advisory Committee usually assigns two or more Committee members to serve as principal readers for each application. The Advisory Committee may, at its discretion, choose to divide into subcommittees to consider particular applications for recognition.

An agency that applies for recognition is invited to make an oral presentation before the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee also hears oral presentations from Department staff and from third parties who request to be heard.

The Advisory Committee conducts its business in public, and a transcript of the proceedings is made.

## **Expansion of Scope**

An application for expansion of an agency's scope of recognition may be included as an integral part of an application for renewal of recognition or it may be submitted separately. If expansion of scope is sought prior to the agency's next regularly scheduled review, agency personnel should consult with AAEB staff concerning the application format.

# Table: Recognition Requirements

Regulatory Provision	Brief Narrative*	Full Narrative*	No Info Required
602.1(a)			X
602.1(b)(1)			X
602.1(b)(2)-(4)			X
602.2			X
602.3(a)(1)	X		
602.3(a)(2)-(4)			X
602.3(b)-(c)			X
602.3(d)			X
602.4(a)-(g)	X		
602.5			X
602.10 - 602.16			X
602.20(a)-(c)	X		
602.21(a)			X
602.21(b)(1),(2),(3),(6)			X
602.21(b)(4),(5),(7)	X		
602.22(a)			X
602.22(b)(1)-(3)	X		
602.23(a)			X
602.23(b)(1)-(4)	X		
602.23(b)(5) and (6)			X
602.24(a)			X
602.24(b)(1)-(5)	X		
602.25(a)			X
602.25(b)(1)-(2)	X		
602.25 (c)			X
602.26(a)			X
602.26(b)(1)-(12)			X
602.26(c)(1)-(4)			X
602.26(d)	X		
602.26(e)			X
602.27(a)			X
602.27(b)-(h)	X		
602.28(a)			X
602.28(b)(1)-(6)	X		
602.29(a)-(c)	X		
602.29(d)			X
602.30(a)	X		

002.50(u)			^
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\* supporting documentation required

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